



OUR CITY FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES Safety Element

Introduction

The Safety Element identifies goals, objectives and policies to prevent, reduce and combat natural and man-made hazards. Law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services are important components of safety. This element addresses general emergency planning, evacuation routes, peak load water supply requirements, and clearances around structures, geologic hazard identification, and minimum road widths.

Current Situation

Arizona Revised Statutes require that a local emergency planning committee shall prepare and annually review an emergency response plan for its emergency planning district in order to address emergencies due to the release of hazardous materials from facilities and transportation vehicles in its district. The emergency plan is not limited to hazardous materials situations. In addition, each local emergency planning committee shall conduct at least a biennial exercise of its emergency plan. The local emergency planning committee is responsible for identifying the resources that are critical to executing the emergency plan.

Each emergency plan includes:

- Identification of key officials who will make decisions involving the execution of the plan.
- Provision of an inventory of trained personnel, facilities, equipment, and organizations that are needed to carry out the plan.
- Agreements with other agencies and communities to exchange aid in time of crisis.

The focal point for all emergency management plans and coordination is the Maricopa County Emergency Operations Center. The agency is located at the Papago Military Reservation in a hardened, underground operations center. The center, staffed with trained personnel, is equipped with the communications system necessary to coordinate any major man-made or natural disaster.

In Chandler, the focal point for emergency response is the Fire Department, with the assistance of the Police Department, and local hospitals. The Fire Department is the custodian for the Chandler Emergency Plan.

Future Trends

The City will continue to address emergency management issues associated with growth and development.

Planning Issues

The City will need to maintain the emergency response plan and continue to coordinate with emergency response agencies.

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Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL: MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.

OBJECTIVE: Review the Emergency Plan annually and coordinate the plan with

regional agencies.

Policy: Partner with regional emergency response agencies.

GOAL: PROVIDE ADEQUATE EVACUATION ROUTES IN THE EVENT OF MAN-MADE OR

NATURAL DISASTERS

OBJECTIVE: Prepare for the evacuation of people from emergency situations,

and coordinate these procedures with Maricopa County Emergency

Management Department.

Policy: Continue to train and plan for a variety of evacuation scenarios.

GOAL: ENSURE THAT ROADWAYS CAN ACCOMMODATE EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND OTHER TRAFFIC IN ORDER TO PERMIT TIMELY EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND

THE SAFE PASSAGE OF PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain engineering standards that provide roads of sufficient

width and capability.

Policy: Work with developers to ensure that such standards are incorporated into development plans, and to minimize restrictions and

disruptions.

GOAL: PROTECT CHANDLER FROM SEVERE EROSION AND GEOLOGIC INSTABILITY.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain geologic hazard mapping of areas of known geologic

hazards.

Policy: Consider partnering with the United States Geologic Survey

(USGS) and Arizona State University geologists and stay abreast of

changing conditions.

GOAL: ENSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE CLEARANCE AROUND STRUCTURES

OBJECTIVE: Maintain zoning and community development standards that will

mitigate the effects of fire and industrial hazards.

Policy: Seek to develop industry that is safety compliant and sited in a

suitable location.